

Tools-in-Use Survey:

**Patterns of Tool Use
among Manufacturing Extension Field Staff**

**Final report to the Industrial Technology Institute
from the Modernization Forum
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This survey report on patterns of tool use among manufacturing extension field staff was prepared by Matt Kane, research director of the Modernization Forum, the association for America's manufacturing extension community. The research was carried out in partnership with the Southern Technology Council and funded by the Industrial Technology Institute as part of an ITI tools evaluation project for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Thanks are owed to Lou Tornatzky at STC, Ken Saulter and Laura Rubin at ITI, and Doug Reimel at the NIST MEP. Additional thanks go to Modernization Forum staff members Sue Pinkowski, Elizabeth Shepard and Ben Vickery for their assistance. The Modernization Forum wishes to express its deep appreciation to the hundreds of manufacturing extension field engineers from among its membership who responded to this tools survey and provided the useful information presented in this report.

The Modernization Forum

Serving America's Industrial Base

The Modernization Forum is the association for America's manufacturing extension community. Forum members work to improve the productivity and performance of America's smaller manufacturers. Membership in the Modernization Forum is open to not-for-profit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide technical assistance and services to modernizing small and midsize manufacturers in the United States.

The Modernization Forum advances U.S. economic competitiveness by enhancing the capabilities and cooperative action of its members and other organizations that strengthen America's smaller manufacturers. Through service to its members, the Forum plays a vital role in the growing national infrastructure for manufacturing extension and industrial modernization.

Modernization Forum activities include an annual national conference, a communications campaign to inform policy makers and the public about manufacturing extension, the *Modernization Matters* and *ModComm* newsletters, other publications, educational seminars on extension issues, and research and analysis.

If you would like more information about the Modernization Forum, please contact us:

The Modernization Forum
20501 Ford Road
Dearborn, MI 48128
Phone: (313) 271-2790
Fax: (313) 271-2791

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